

REMARKS

Entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 and 8-22 are rejected.

Claims 7 and 23 are objected to.

The Drawings were objected to. New Figure 4 has been added. No new matter has been added.

Claims 5 and 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner's rejection is hereby traversed. Claims 5, 8, 12 and 14 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection.

Claims 1-6, 8-13, and 17-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Aalto et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these statements.

The Examiner also stated that claims 7 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and claims 14-16 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 112 rejections and to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

The limitations of allowable claim 23 have been incorporated into independent claim 17 making independent claim 17 and claims 18-22 which depend from it allowable. Claim 23 has

been cancelled.

Also, the limitations of allowable claim 7 have been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 8 making independent claims 1 and 8 and claims 2-7 and 9-16 which depend from them allowable. Claim 7 has been cancelled.

In view of the above changes to the claims the Examiner's rejections are now moot and the claims are allowable.

In view of the amendments to the claims made herein and the arguments presented above it is submitted that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and should be withdrawn and that the Application is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A petition for a one-month extension of time with the requisite fee is attached herewith. In the event that any other extensions and/or fees are required for the entry of this Amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office specifically authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0518 in the name of Steinberg & Raskin, P.C.

Should any changes to the claims and/or specification be deemed necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned to discuss the same.

Appl. No. 10/018,702
Amdt. Dated January 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 16, 2003

989.1039

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
STEINBERG & RASKIN, P.C.

By: 

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Attachment: Additional Sheet, Fig. 4